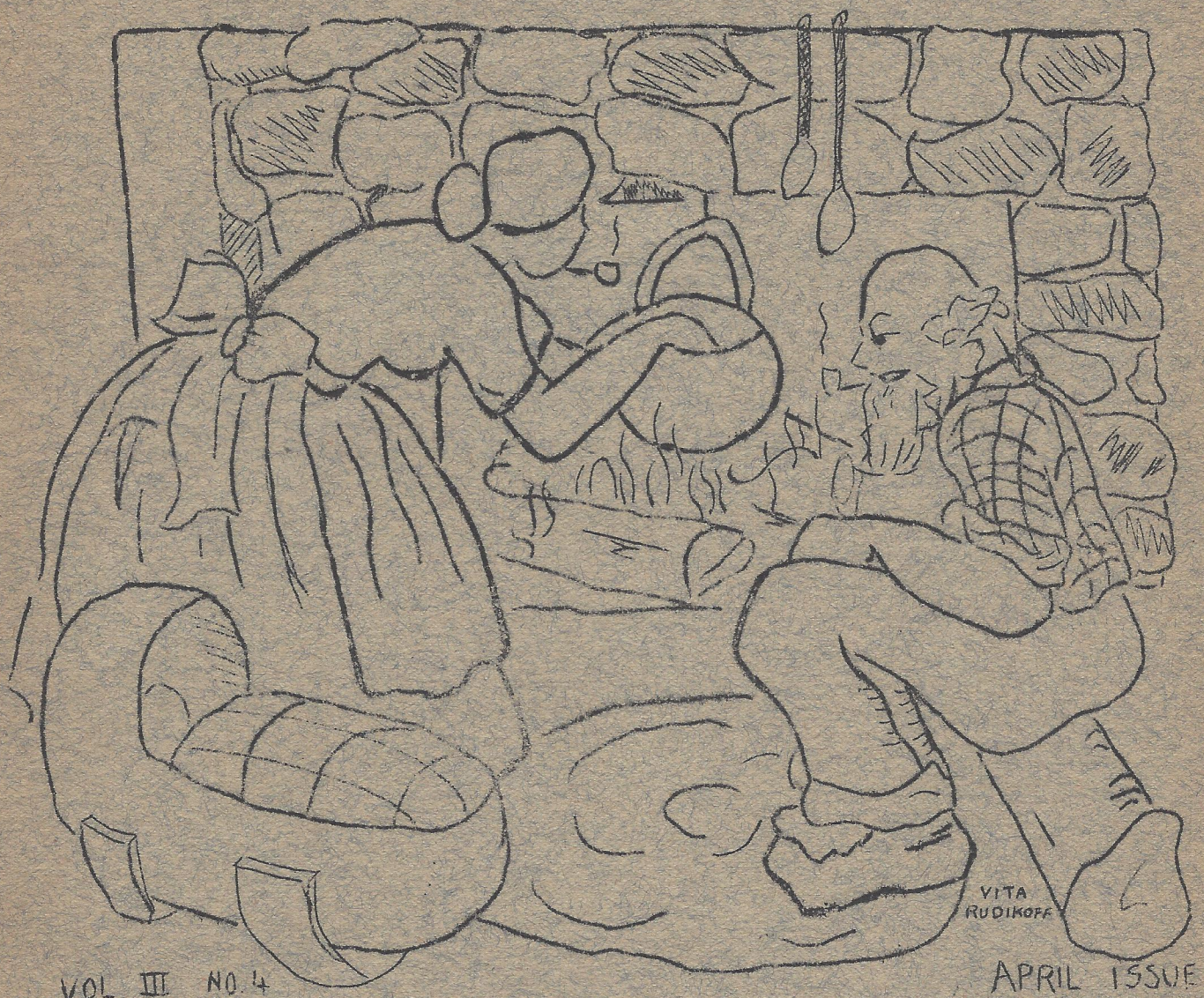
PROMENADE

A MAGAZINE OF AMERICAN FOLK LORE

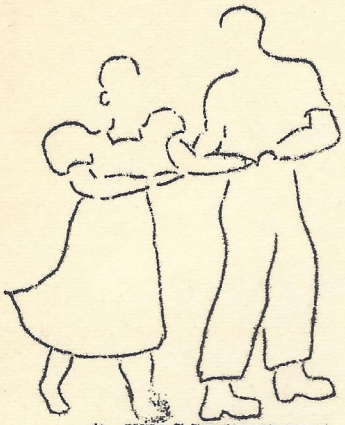


VOL. III NO. 4 APRIL ISSUE

AMERICAN SQUARE DANCE GROUP

MARGOT MAYO

LEADER



"PROMENADE"

Official organ of the American Square-Dance Group.
"The purpose of the American Square Dance Group shall be to make available those rich stores of native dance, music, drama and general Americana which together comprise American Folk culture; to conduct such activities without regard for race, creed, color or social position; to cooperate with those who hold similar veiws."
A. S. D. G. Constitution

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EDITORIAL

It seems to us that city folk-groups are becoming more and more important, both as recreational and cultural forces.

For, during this national emergency, when there is such constant change in communities, families moving around the country in quest of defense work, men leaving home to join our armed forces, soldiers and sailors on leave in the big cities and smaller towns, there is an urgent need for inexpensive recreation requiring no particular technique. Folk dancing and singing are becoming increasingly important as recreation, for no previous knowledge is necessary for an evening of this spontaneous and exhilerating fun.

American folk dancing and singing are coming into their own now, because, aside from the fact that these are group activities in which anyone can participate, these outgrowths of our people are a means of quickly molding a group of individuals into a whole.

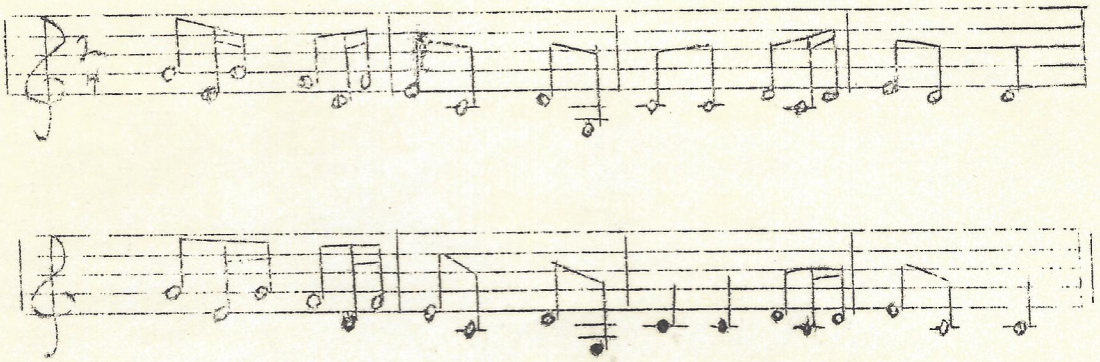
Recently the A. S. D. G. has been cooperating with the U. S. O. in running square dances for our boys. It has been very gratifying for us to see these joining in the dance and so obviously enjoying themselves. It's good for our souls to see the ballroom floor fill up with couples ready for square dancing when only a few couples had been social dancing. To see the smiles of recognition when the "Virginia Reel" was announced was recompence enough for dancing and playing And dancing this too-well-known dance, for it meant something to those boys and therefore it took on a new meaning for us. We felt as if we were really doing something for our country!

City groups, such as the A.S.D.G. and must play an important part in recreation during this crisis, by making available to all these evenings of genuine fun.

If, through our demonstrations, open houses, parties, and "Promenade" we, of the A.S.D.G. are helping to spread the knowledge of folk culture and thus helping others to run such evenings, then we, too, are "doing our part" in this national crisis.

OLD GRANNY HARE

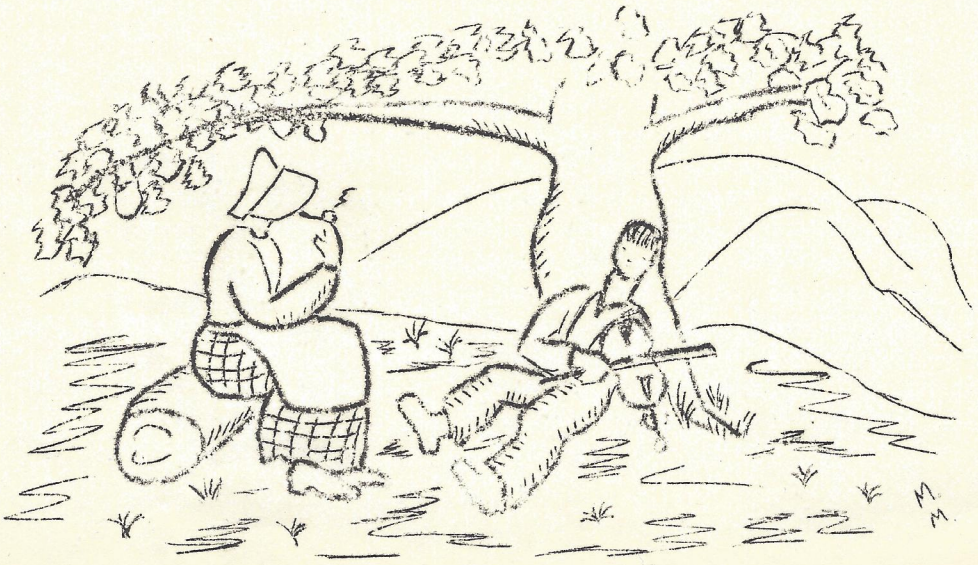
This old favorite was collected by Alan from a boy named Frank Mims. Frank comes from Greenwood, South Carolina. This tune is fine for square dancing. If you know any more verses to this song, please send them to us.



Old Granny Hare and her husband Bill
A-sitting and a-smoking by her whiskey still
Throwing in rat hairs and hog-eyes too
Says old Granny Hare, "This never will do"

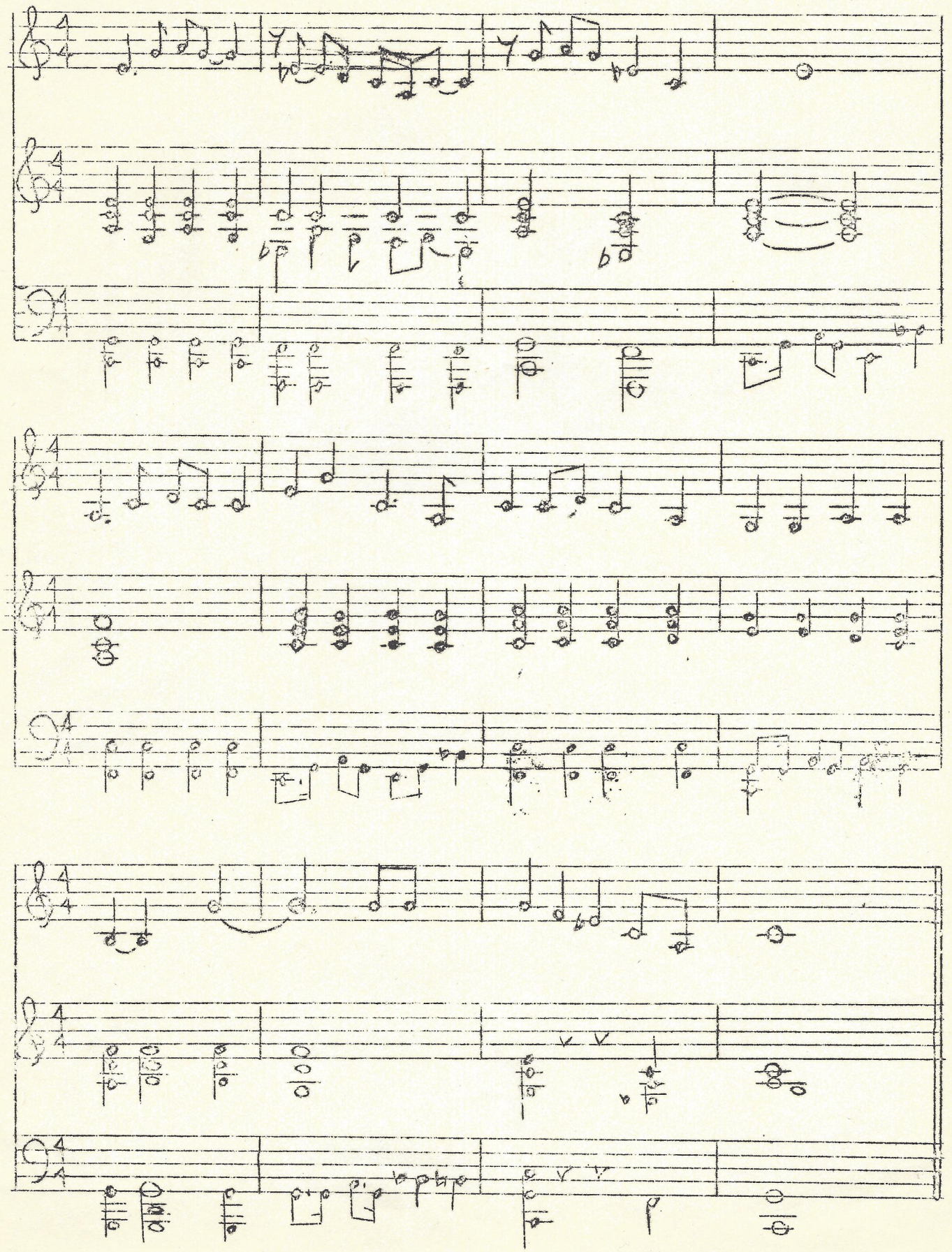
Old G ranny Hare with her eye on a snipe
Sits and she smokes her corncob pipe
I'd rather be a rabbit a-chased by a bear
Than get in the hatin' of old Granny Hare

Frank told Alan that the more rat hairs and stuff you put into the "moonshine" the better, as it ferments quicker. The stuff is strained anyhow!



STAGOLEE

This version of "Stagolee" was collected by Alan, who heard an old Negro sing it.



STAGOLEE

Stagolee now Stagolee now
You listen here to me
You done murder and kill them people
Now pay that penalty
You is a bad man and we know you Stagolee.

Gentlemen hear my story
Tell you what I done see
Billy da Liar been shot to death
By mean old Stagolee.
He was a mean, mean man and his name was Stagolee.

Billy da Liar he's a cheater
But I'm going to tell you that
Sometimes he's mean and killing too
He didn't steal that Stetson hat
He was a mean, mean man and his name was Stagolee

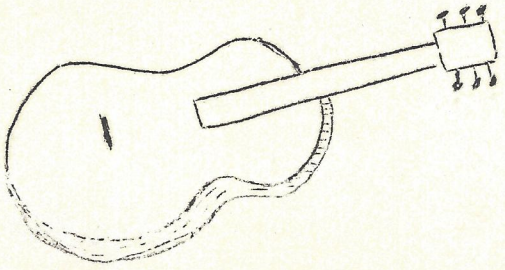
Billy he said to Satgolee
"Don't you take my life
I got three little children
And a pretty, loving wife
You is a mean, mean man and your name is Satgolee"

"What I care 'bout your children
What I care about your wife
You done stole my Stetson hat
And I'm going to take your life
I am a mean, mean man and my name is Stagolee"

Stagolee said to the Devil
"Just put my gun on the shelf
I'm a-going to give Heaven to you
And run Hell by myself
I'm a bad, bad man and my name is Stagolee"

Stagolee said to the jury
"Lord have pity on me"
Spoke the jury, " we got a long rope
Going to set your spirit free
You're a bad man, you mean old Stagolee"

Alan picked up this version from C.J. Clark of Fulton, Alabama. He sent the words to us in dialect, but since we got confused ourselves with the way he spelt the words, we thought you would get confused too, so, without apology we changed the dialect into plain English. You may change it back, if you wish.



QUADRILLE

This square dance called in Preakness, New Jersey, was used as the first of three dances. This figure was invariably called before the other two dances, both being new dances of the evening.

FORMATION: Square set

MUSIC: A lively 4/4 tune

CALLS: "Circle eight hands."

1. Heads forward and back
2. Forward and right hand over and left hand back
3. Balance
4. Ladies change
5. Balance
6. Allemande your allemande left
7. Grand right and left (turning each lady under their arms)
8. Meet partners, turn once
   Promenade home.

(repeat sides the same)

DESCRIPTION:

1. Heads move forward four steps and four backwards.
2. Heads move forward again, opposites join right hands and exchange.. join left hands and return to places.
3. In ballroom position, both head couples slide across set, exchange places, men passing back to back, then couples slide to place, ladies passing back to back.
4. The two ladies join right hands, as in a regular ladies change, give opposite gents their left hand, the gent, moving his left hand above his head turns the lady around him, The gent does not turn.
5. Same as before.
6. Corners hook left elbows and turn swiftly for eight measures.
7. Face partners, join right hands, ladies turn under their right arms gents standing still, (rather, not turning) giving left hand to the next in line the gents turn that lady under her left arm, and so on around the ring until you meet your partner. Swing your partner once around and promenade home. (in skating position moving counterclockwise around the set.)

MARCHING THROUGH GEORGIA

This is another dance collected by Gene Levitt when he attended a square dance at the Grange Hall in South Lansing, N.Y.

formation; square set
music; "Marching Through Georgia"

calls;
1) Allemande left, grand right and left all the way around
2) Lady march 'round inside the set
3) Swing partners
4) Promenade single file..."Hurray, hurray, go back the other way"
5) Swing partners all
6) Allemande left, grand right and left all the way around
7) Promenade with your partners

repeat from 2 - 7 until each lady in the set has been active. Then repeat from 2-7 for each of the four gents. End the dance with "honor your partners".

description;

1) Each gent faces the lady on his left. Joining his left hand with her left, he turns her once around, both moving in a counterclockwise direction. All dancers finish this figure in original places. Partners face each other, join right hands, and each dancer moves in the direction he is facing, alternating right and left hands with each dancer he meets. Partners pass each other on the opposite side of the set, and continue until all are in original places.

2) First lady moves around, inside the set, going in a counterclockwise direction until she faces her partner.

3) The first lady and her partner swing.

4) All dancers face in counterclockwise direction, single file, and place right hands on the right shoulders of the dancers in front and move round the set until all are in original places, then the dancers turn around, place left hands on the shoulders of those in in front and move back around the set in clockwise direction. All the dancers shout the "hurray" etc.

5-6) All swing partners . Allemande left, etc.

7) Partners join hands in skating position and move around the set in counterclockwise direction until all are in original places.

note to caller; the proemande single file should be so timed that the "hurray" comes with the music. Remember the words of this song?

M.M.

BOOK REVIEWS

Frequently, in our descriptions of square dances in Promenade we suggest as music "any good lively 6/8 tune" or something equally helpful..It just dawned on us that it might be a good idea to tell you where you can find some of these "good tunes". All of the music books listed below contain full piano accompaniment, and all are easily obtained at music stores or may be ordered thru them.

OLD FAMILIAR DANCES WITH FIGURES....compiled and arranged by George C. Gott. Published by Oliver Ditson Co. ..1712 Chestnut St., Philadelphia. Price list 75¢. ....contains some 87 jigs, reels, hornpipes, polkas, etc & and the complete music for the five figures, the traditional lancers..... contains many favorites such as Soldier's Joy, Money Musk, Old Dan Tucker, etc.

ALL ROUND COLLECTION OF JIGS REELS AND COUNTRY DANCES.....Hardings Music House, New York. Price 75¢. Two hundred tunes- jigs, reels, flings, old favorites.

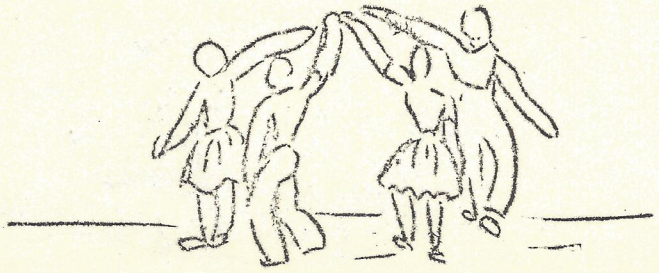
TWO HUNDRED JIGS? REELS AND COUNTRY DANCES....Robbins Music Corp. New York...jigs, reels, hornpipes, strathspeys, flings, morris dances, country and folk dances (some foreign tunes) clogs. Favorites such as "White Cockade" "Arkansas Traveller" and "Speed the Plow", etc.

JIGS AND REELS.....Belmont Music Company, 3411 West Chicago Ave, Chicago, Illinois. 48 tunes containing many favorites such as Turkey in the Straw, Pop goes the Weasel, Garry Owen, Miss McCleods Reel and others.

JIGS AND REELS...Hardings original collection published by Paull - Pioneer music corp. 1657 Broadway. New York City. 100 jigs and reels.

UNIVERSAL ALBUM OF TWO HUNDRED JIGS REELS HORNPIPES ETC...compiled and arranged by Paul De Ville and Maurice Gould. The usual favorites, Durang's Hornpipe, Hull's Victory, Lamplighter's Hornpipe, Lady Walpole's Reel, etc

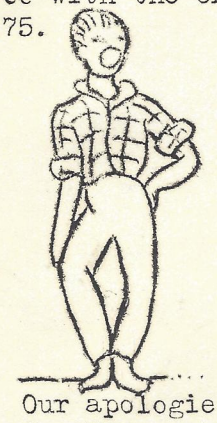
Any and all of these music books are well worth owning and are highly recommended. Then there are the books like "Traditional Music of America" by Ira Ford with its unaccompanied but very fine tunes, also "Folk Songs of Old New England" by Eloise Linscott with its various unaccompanied tunes.



"NOTES OF INTEREST"

Oh, to be a folk festival, now that Spring is here ! There seems to be a bumper crop of festivals coming along. In Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on May 19th, 20th and 21st, the Dauphin County Folk Festival will be held. The week of May 17th has been designated "National Folk Festival Week". The much publicized National Folk Festival (this year is the ninth annual) will be held in Washington D.C. from May 6th to May 9th and in New York City for one day, May 11th. Summer will bring more festivals. If you know of any local festivals, please send us the details so we can let our readers know about them.

Due to inquiries received, we will once more print the numbers of the four ASDG albums of dance records. The Running Set album is number A-274; the Longways is number A-275; the Play Party number A-278 and the Quadrille number A-277. All these are Decca recordings and all are listed as $2.00 with the exception of the Quadrille album of twelve inch records at $2.75.



Gene Levitt, recently graduated from the Junior into the Senior Group division of the ASDG, has left for parts upstate to work on a farm as preparation for his college work next fall. We understand he intends to become a veterinarian. We are grateful for the square dance calls he has sent us and we hope he gets to go tomore dances to get our readers new and interesting material.

Our apologies for the poor mimeographing job in the last issue of Promenade. The machine was acting temperamental and we were not adjusted to our new typewriter. The name of the first dance which was unreadable, is "Double Chassez"

Members of the ASDG are glad to have Alan back again, if only for the short period of his furlough...seems like old times again. His old five string banjo sounds mighty good to us..... now that we've had the opportunity of missing it "fer a spell" . He picked up some nice songs and we're happy to be able to pass them on to you. We repeat, it's good to have Alan with us again!

In our next issue, we're planning to give you more songs Alan's brought back from Alabama namely a white spiritual, "I'm a Journeying Homeward", a mountain song, "Answer Me a Single Question", "Lights in the Valley", "Talking Blues" and others.

Latest notes from the folk field include two friends of the ASDG both prominent in their respective hobbies. The first, Ralph Tefferteller, better known to the Group as "Teffie" and the second Burl Ives, known on his radio programs of folk songs as the "Wayfaring Stranger" are soon to join Uncle Sam's armed forces. Teffie was one of the finest callers this Group has ever heard and it's hard-to-imagine him exchanging a "grand tail back" for a "to the rear march" !